

**Statement by Conrad Egan
President and CEO of the National Housing Conference**

**Prepared in Response to the U.S. Senate's Introduction of the Livable
Communities Act of 2009**

"We applaud the recent introduction of the Livable Communities Act of 2009 in the U.S. Senate, which is focused on helping communities nationwide coordinate and integrate their housing, transportation, economic development, energy and environmental needs. If passed, this important legislation would provide \$4 billion in grants to help states and cities better plan for affordable housing and transit-oriented development, as well as help to reduce traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, fuel consumption and more.

The legislation would also establish a federal Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help administer and oversee the grant program. In addition, a federal Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities would be created and include representatives from HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other key federal agencies, in order to coordinate sustainable development policies.

Introduced in the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee by Chairman Chris Dodd and committee members Senators Dan Akaka, Michael Bennett Robert Menendez, Jeff Merkley and Charles Schumer, the Livable Communities Act builds on the Administration's Sustainable Communities Initiative, which was introduced in March.

We look forward to working with Congress and the Administration to face the challenges associated with breaking down the current silos and then integrating them into a new inclusive planning process."